

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3460

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: SEPTEMBER 18 LOWER HOUSE INTERPELLATIONS

SUMMARY. IN FIRST DAY OF INTERPELLATIONS, PRIMIN MIKI REFUSED
TO ACKNOWLEDGE LDP RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES; STRESSED GOJ

ECONOMIC AND FINANACIAL POLICIES WOULD PUT ECONOMY ON NON-INFLA-
TIONARY ROAD TO RECOVERY; DENIED THAT HE WAS THINKING OF DISOLU-
TION OF LOWER HOUSE; UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF STABILITY OF ENTIRE
KOREAN PENINSULA TO SECURITY OF ROK; STATED JAPAN HAD NO
INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA; AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR EARLY
CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-PRC TREATY. END SUMMARY.

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1. THREE DAYS OF GENERAL INTERPELLATIONS OPENED SEPTEMBER 18 WITH JSP EFFORT TO NAIL MIKI GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT STATE OF ECONOMY WHICH HAS LED TO NECESSITY FOR DEFICIT FINANCING AND INCREASED PRICES OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND POSTAL RATES. AMONG OTHER THINGS, JSP SPEAKER DEMANDED REINTRODUCTION OF ANTI-MONOLPOLY BILL, MEASURES TO ASSIST MIDDLE AND SMALL ENTERPRISES, INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES, RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO STRIKE FOR EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, AND LOWER HOUSE DISSOLUTION.

2. MIKI RESPONDED THAT JAPAN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS STEMMED FROM OIL CRISIS AND WERE NO DIFFERENT FROM STAGFLATION FACING OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID GOJ WOULD BE CAREFUL TO ASSURE THAT ANTI-RECESSION BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MEASURES AND ISSUANCE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES WOULD BE NON-INFLATIONARY. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING ANTI-MONOLPOLY BILL IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN FREE ECONOMY, HE DOES NOT WANT ITS REINTRODUCTION TO INTERFERE WITH MORE IMPORTANT LEGISLATION. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE REINTRODUCED WHEN ITS REVISION WAS COMPLETED BY LDP. HE SAID SPECIAL CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PROBLEMS OF MEDIUM AND SMALL ENTERPRISES AND GOJ HOPES TO HAVE PROPOSAL ON QUESTION OF RIGHT TO STRIKE FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISE EMPLOYEES LATER IN FALL. MIKI ASSERTED THAT GOJ MEASURES HAD PLACED BUSINESS RECOVERY ON RIGHT TRACK.

3. ON SECURITY, MIKI SAID THAT BECAUSE ONE NATION COULD NOT HOPE TO DEFEND ITSELF ALONG, JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY. HE ADDED IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT PUBLIC OPINION WAS NOT UNITED ON SECURITY QUESTION AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING CONSENSUS ON ISSUE IT WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL DIET COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY PROBLEMS.

4. ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES QUESTION, MIKI SAID THAT THE FOUR NORTHERN ISLANDS INCLUDING HABOMAI AND SHIKOTAN WERE JAPANESE TERRITORY AND HE INTENDED TO NEGOTIATE FOR THEIR RETURN.

5. ON FORIEGN AFFAIRS, JSP SPEAKER DEMANDED EARLY CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA TREATY AND RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. MIKI RESPONDED THAT ONE OF HIS PRINCIPLE CONCERNS IN US-JAPAN SUMMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WAS HOW TO PREVENT OCCURRENCE OF CRISES. HE REITERATED THAT IT ONLY NATURAL THAT ROK'S SECURITY WAS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH SECURITY OF ENTIRE KOREAN PENINSULA AND THAT A STABLE SITUATION ON PENINSULA WAS NECESSARY FOR ROK SECURITY. HE DENIED THAT SUMMIT PRESS RELEASE HAD EXPANDED SCOPE OF SECURITY TREATY. UNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WAS DESIRE OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH KOREAS, HOWEVER, JAPAN HAD NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA. MIKI SAID HE HOPED

FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-PRC TREATY AND HOPED TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON CENTRAL QUESTION OF "HEGEMONY," WHICH HE DESCRIBED AGAIN AS UNIVERSAL PEACEFUL PRINCIPLE. HE DENIED OPPOSITION ACCUSATION THAT HE DELAYING TREATY UNTIL HE COULD REASSESS SITUATION AFTER PRESIDENT'S PEKING TRIP.

6. ON QUESTION OF DISSOLUTION OF LOWER HOUSE, MIKI SAID THAT AT TIME WHEN COUNTRY WAS FACING MANY PROBLEMS, PEOPLE DID NOT DESIRE A POLITICAL VACUUM. THEREFORE, HE IS NOT EVEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY.

7. DURING COURSE OF INTERPELATIONS, MIKI IN OBLIQUE JAB AT FELLOW LDP POLITICIANS, NOTED THAT HIS CALL FOR POLITICAL ARMISTICE AND RENUNCIATION OF OPPOSITION FOR OPPOSITION'S SAKE WAS AIMED AT ALL PARTIES, NOT ONLY AT POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

8. COMMENT. FIRST DAY OF INTERPELLATIONS WAS LARGELY A RERUN OF PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS. MIKI CONTINUED TO ADOPT LOW POSTURE TOWARD OPPOSITION AND APPEAL FOR "DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION." WE FORESEE PROBLEMS APPEARING IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AS GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION GROPE TO WORK OUT TIMETABLE AND AGENDA FOR LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE, PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO OPEN DURING MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

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